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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05833 111158 Z

45
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11

DOTE-00 COME-00 NEA-10 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /118 W
---------- 034740
R 110711 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASDD 3777
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5833

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA , SN
SUBJECT: VISIT TO JAPAN OF SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER

1. SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW PAID UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN FROM MAY 7 TO 14. VISIT WAS PROMPTED BY NAGASAKI LAUNCHING OF LARGE BULK CARRIER BELONGING TO SINGAPORE INTERESTS, BUT LEE (ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND FOUR AIDES) ALSO SPENT FIVE DAYS IN TOKYO WHERE HE HAD DINNER MEETING WITH PRIMIN TANAKA. AND FONMIN OHIRA, CALLED ON FINMIN AICHI AND DEFENSE AGENCY DIRGEN MASUHARA, AND MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

2. EMBASSY ARRANGED VERY INFORMAL MEETING,/ WHICH LASTED ALMOST TWICE AS LONG AS SCHEDULED FORTY- FIVE MINIUTES, BETWEEN LEE AND AMBASSADOR AT LATTER' S RESIDENCE. MOST NOTEWORTHY POINT TO EMERGE
FROM STIMULATING, WIDE- RANGING CONVERSATION WAS THAT LEE SAID HE HAD
TOLD PRIMIN TANAKA THAT JAPAN MUST DO MORE TO PROTECT ITS FAR- FLUNG SEALANES ESPECIALLY TO MIDDLE EAST (TO WHICH TANAKA DID NOT RESPOND BUT LOOKED QTE PENSIVE UNQTE). LEE SUGGESTED US AND JAPAN MIGHT FORM JOINT NAVAL TASK FORCE, AS ALTERNATIVE TO UNILATERAL JAPANESE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD ALARM SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS. LEE ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT OVER NEXT 10 TO 15 YEARS PRC WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC CONCERNS BUT THEREAFTER IT MAY WELL WISH TO EXERT GREATER INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OVER SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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